



Group Activity: Art Wall!

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Highlights from the 2014 Montana Artists Gathering

By Sheri Jarvis, MAP Director

The annual Montana Artists Gathering took place Nov. 1-2 in Helena at the Red Lion Colonial Inn and by all accounts was a big success. Artists from as far east as Hammond and as far west as Noxon congregated in Helena for a visual art showcase and sale titled “Celebrate Montana Art,” followed by a day of engaging professional development workshops as part of the Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP).

On day one of the event, 608 shoppers enjoyed meeting 62 of MAP’s talented artists, seeing their outstanding booth displays and purchasing \$28,000 of fine art and craft items. Visitors remarked that the MAP artists created the best art show that they had seen all year

and that they were overwhelmingly impressed by the display of talent and professionalism.

Day two of the Gathering offered four concurrent workshops on topics relevant to sustaining a life in the arts, including: “Improving Verbal Communications,” conducted by Creative Capital of New York City; “The Art of Productivity,” conducted by Erica Leep Anderson; “360° Viewpoint: Gallery Representation and Expectations,” with representatives from several professionals in the art industry; and “Food for Thought: Cultural Appreciation vs. Appropriation” with multiple facilitators. After a day filled with interesting ideas and sparkling conversation, participants left enriched for the road ahead.

Plans are already underway for next year’s

Montana Artists Gathering, which is slated to take place during the second weekend of November at the same location. The show is open to any participant of the Montana Artrepreneur Program, current or past, who is ready to present their work in a formal art-show setting.

For some, this show offers the first opportunity to present their work professionally; for others, it’s an opportunity to represent their art business, make new friends and meet old colleagues within the extensive MAP network.

For more information about MAP and about the annual Montana Artists Gathering, please contact Sheri Jarvis, Montana Artrepreneur program director, at sherijarvis@mt.gov or call 406-865-0884.

Photos by
Cinda Holt



Kathy Burk, Modern Relics, Bozeman



Alaina Buffalospirit (right) and colleague, Buffalospirit Designs, Billings



Drew Geiger with Bently Spang, artist and presenter, and Sheri Jarvis, MAP director



Allison McGree and family, Allison McGree Fine Art, Bozeman



Steven McEwen, Q's Quality Woodworking, Huson



Kelly Bort (right) and customer, Kelly Bort Quilts, Whitefish



Karen Thorson and husband John, Art Studio 376, Plains



Mary Knapp, MK Studio, Ballantine



Vida Landa and customer, Miles City



Bev Polk, Weaverbird Studio, Wilsall



Fabulous volunteers: Bek Baraby and Tony Van Slyke